

# Everybody In!

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## Wave of single-payer candidates creates new 2019 organizing window

by Benjamin Day

Over the past two years the movement for Medicare for All has grown by leaps and bounds, but with very few opportunities to advance legislation at the state or national levels.

All of that changed on November 6, 2018, as an unprecedented wave of candidates ran on Medicare for All at all levels of government reshaping the political terrain.

Here are the new organizing battlegrounds to win improved Medicare for All in 2019:

### The U.S. House of Representatives

Candidates running on single-payer healthcare won in twelve House districts where, last session, we did not have co-sponsors of HR676, the Expanded & Improved Medicare for All Act. This number may rise to thirteen if Jared Golden prevails in Maine's 2nd Congressional District after a runoff.

With almost two-thirds of House Democrats already on board the bill even prior to the elections, Healthcare-NOW along with all our national allies will be making a major push to advance single-payer legislation in the House. Healthcare legislation

passes first through the Energy & Commerce Committee, then through Ways & Means before reaching the floor of the House, so expect an intense national campaign to focus on these Committees first!

Democratic control of the House also opens up the possibility of Committee Chairs holding hearings on Medicare for All, which could provide a valuable vehicle to educate members of Congress and the public about how a single-payer system would work.

Finally, the Medicare for All Caucus, first launched in July of 2018, will really swing

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Amirah Sequeira

### Interview with National Nurses United's Amirah Sequeira and Jean Ross

*Amirah Sequeira and Jean Ross, RN are, respectively, Legislative Advocate and Co-President of National Nurses United.*

**Healthcare-NOW!:** Why did you get involved in the Medicare for All movement?

**Jean Ross:** As a registered nurse working at the bedside in the hospital, I have taken care of countless patients whose lives have been destroyed by the for-profit health insurance industry. Our healthcare system

in this country is devastating for the health of our communities — tens of millions of Americans don't have healthcare, and as a result, they don't get the preventative care they need. My experiences at the bedside are the reason I'm involved in fighting for a Medicare for All system. It's the only solution for my patients.

**Amirah Sequeira:** I came to the United States as a student and an HIV/AIDS activist from Canada when I was 18 years old. In Canada, we have a

single payer healthcare system that guarantees healthcare for all Canadian citizens. I was absolutely in shock when I first needed healthcare services in the United States. I also spent a year studying in England, where the NHS provides a full socialized medical model for its residents. It will never cease to astound me that this country, my adopted country, fails to provide healthcare as a human right for its residents, and so I became involved in the movement for Medicare for All

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Jean Ross

# Feeling the heat, Trump and GOP lash out at Medicare for All

by *Ibrahima Sankare*

The growing call for Medicare for All across the country has starting prompting aggressive pushback from powerholders, as President Trump on October 10th published an op-ed in USA Today seeking to convince seniors of the false claim that Medicare for All would take away their Medicare benefits.

The coverage seniors receive currently under Medicare - while guaranteed and often better than private insurance - is not nearly as comprehensive as that offered by countries with single-payer healthcare, and seniors stand to gain more from an improved Medicare for All plan than just about any group in the country.

This marks just the beginning of what will become a deluge of lies and misinformation, the closer our movement comes to winning. We should use these moments as an opportunity for widespread grassroots education and inoculation. **HCN!**



**% OF SENIORS WHO GO WITHOUT CARE DUE TO COST:**



Sweden  
**2%**



USA  
**31%**

*Seniors and also non-seniors need #Medicare4all*

## **Healthcare-NOW Virginia launched**

By *Rebecca Wood and Joey Warren*

Despite healthcare policy successes like Medicaid expansion, thousands of Virginians are suffering from healthcare access issues. The need for a single payer system is evident.

We have teamed up with registered nurse and former state house candidate, Kellen Squire, Charlottesville For Reasonable Health Insurance's Sara Stoval, and Indivisible Charlottesville's Ken Horne to form Healthcare-NOW Virginia!

Over the next year, the group aims to establish itself, hold semi monthly healthcare policy teach-ins, healthcare meetups, work with other health care groups on Capitol Hill in DC, and push for state policies that would help pave the way for Medicare For All. **HCN!**

*2019 organizing... from page 1*

into motion for the new 2019-2020 legislative session, hosting briefings, coordinating dear-colleague letters, and building support for HR676 within Congress. If your Representative is a co-sponsor of HR676, but has not yet joined the Caucus, between now and January is the perfect time to lobby them to move beyond signing their name to the bill and to take on a leadership role. See the list of Caucus members here: <http://bit.ly/CaucusCount>

### **New Opportunities for State Legislation**

An unprecedented number of gubernatorial candidates ran on Medicare for All this year, and an unprecedented number won, creating new organizing windows in many states. Colorado Governor-elect Jared Polis is a long-time co-sponsor of HR676 during his time as a Representative, and he will step into the Governor's office of one of the few states with a Democratic legislature and Governor. The new Governor-elect of California, Gavin Newsom, said on the campaign trail "There's no reason to wait around on universal healthcare and single-payer in California... It's time to move 562 [the state single payer bill]. It's time to get it out of committee... You have my firm and absolute commitment as your next governor that I will lead the effort to get it done. We will have universal healthcare in the state of California."

Single-payer candidates also transformed state legislatures this election cycle, perhaps nowhere as significantly as in New York. The New York Health Act has passed the New York Assembly the past three years by overwhelming majorities. Towards the end of 2017, Andrew Cuomo, the now re-elected Governor of the state, finally signaled support for single-payer healthcare in the face of "repeal and replace" efforts by Congress at the time. The Health Act was, however, one co-sponsor short of a majority in the state Senate. This gap has now been closed, as almost half a dozen Democratic candidates supportive of the Health Act have unseated Republicans, and should provide organizers with majorities in both branches of the legislature. The last step for our movement will always be the hardest, but this creates a very exciting and unique opportunity for the Campaign for New York Health next year! **HCN!**

# Healthcare-NOW's campaign to win Rep. Kennedy's support for H.R. 676

by *Stephanie Nakajima*

This summer Healthcare-NOW launched a campaign to get Rep. Joe Kennedy on board H.R. 676. We started with a coalition approach; in September over 30 unions and grassroots organizations with membership in his district signed onto a letter asking him to cosponsor the bill.

Initially his office didn't respond to the letter, so we amped up the grassroots pressure, launching a social media day of action on October 10th with over 20 of the signing groups participating. Next, volunteers canvassed supermarkets in his district over a two week period later in the month, generating 250 calls to his office in support of Medicare for All. Finally, one of our national allies — the President of the United Electrical Workers' union — visited his D.C. office to speak with Rep. Kennedy directly.

Ultimately we got a meeting with the man himself in early December, along with feedback from his office that he's open to becoming a co-sponsor. We're excited to get him on the bill for next session!

If you'd like to learn more how to run a campaign like this, check out our grassroots legislative advocacy training: [bit.ly/grassrootslobbying](http://bit.ly/grassrootslobbying) **HCN!**



**Ask**  
Rep. Joe Kennedy  
to cosponsor  
**Medicare for All**  
— 202-225-5931 —

**85%**  
Democrats  
in favor of  
single payer

**70%**  
Americans  
in favor of  
single payer

**64%**  
House Dems  
who are on  
the bill

**Kennedy is not a cosponsor of H.R. 676.** He needs to hear from his constituents that we need his leadership on single payer!

**Under H.R. 676, Expanded & Improved Medicare for All:**

- everyone will have cradle to grave comprehensive health coverage
- profit is out of insurance
- employers no longer responsible for costs OR coverage decisions
- savings for 95% of the population

**HEALTHCARE-NOW!**      <http://bit.ly/JoeK4SP>

**MMU interview...** from page 1

because I know exactly how a single payer system would work, and I know that it would monumentally affect the lives of every American. Americans deserve good healthcare - and they don't have it now.

**HCN:** What are the next legislative and organizing steps to advance HR 676 in the House after the elections?

**AS:** Now that the Democrats have taken control of the House of Representatives, we have a real opportunity to advance HR 676, the Medicare for All Act, through committees in the House of Representatives, and maybe to a vote on

the floor of the House. To do that, we need to develop real champions of Medicare for All in the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Energy and Commerce committee.

**JR:** To accomplish the goal of moving HR 676 through committees, it's important that our organizing includes a focus on educating the members of those two committees about Medicare for All. The Democratic members of these committees need to be hearing constantly from their constituents — nurses, doctors, patients, union members, students, and others — until they agree to support and champion Medicare for All. It's

also important that Medicare for All supporters recognize and can fight back against half measures. There are numerous legislative proposals that are co-opting Medicare for All in order to advance a corporate agenda that protects private insurance companies. These half measures, like a "public option" or "medicare extra" would not give our patients the care they need.

**HCN:** Can you talk about the goals of the new National Nurses United Medicare for All campaign and how activists can get involved?

**JR:** The goal of the Nurses campaign for Medicare for All is to win Medicare for All! Our

patients can't wait any longer for guaranteed healthcare, that doesn't discriminate based on ability to pay or anything else. A large part of our organizing moving forward is focused on both organizing new activists to bring the movement to scale, while focusing activism on key elected-officials, both on the state and federal level. Medicare for All can only be achieved by building a broad grassroots movement to support legislation.

**AS:** We encourage everyone to sign up to participate in our weekend of Barnstorms for Medicare for All in February. You can get involved by signing up at [medicare4all.org](http://medicare4all.org) **HCN!**

# Take Action for Single-Payer Healthcare!

**Legislation by Rep. Keith Ellison and Sen. Bernie Sanders would create a single-payer system, "expanded and improved Medicare-for-all."**

If you don't see both your Senators or your Representative listed as co-sponsors below, make sure to call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 to be connected to your legislators and ask them to co-sponsor S. 1804 and H.R.676!

## 16 Current Co-Sponsors of S. 1804 (by state):

Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]  
 Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]  
 Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]  
 Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]  
 Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]  
 Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]  
 Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]  
 Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]  
 Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]  
 Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]  
 Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]  
 Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]  
 Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]  
 Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]  
 Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]  
 Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]

## 123 Current Co-Sponsors of H.R. 676 (by last name):

Rep. Adams, Alma S. [D-NC-12]  
 Rep. Barragan, Nanette Diaz [D-CA-44]  
 Rep. Bass, Karen [D-CA-37]  
 Rep. Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3]  
 Rep. Beyer, Donald S., Jr. [D-VA-8]  
 Rep. Bishop, Sanford D., Jr. [D-GA-2]  
 Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]  
 Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1]  
 Rep. Boyle, Brendan F. [D-PA-13]  
 Rep. Brady, Robert A. [D-PA-1]  
 Rep. Brown, Anthony G. [D-MD-4]  
 Rep. Butterfield, G. K. [D-NC-1]  
 Rep. Capuano, Michael E. [D-MA-7]  
 Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7]  
 Rep. Cartwright, Matt [D-PA-17]  
 Rep. Castor, Kathy [D-FL-14]  
 Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]  
 Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1]  
 Rep. Clark, Katherine M. [D-MA-5]  
 Rep. Clarke, Yvette D. [D-NY-9]  
 Rep. Clay, Wm. Lacy [D-MO-1]  
 Rep. Cleaver, Emanuel [D-MO-5]  
 Rep. Clyburn, James E. [D-SC-6]  
 Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]  
 Rep. Cooper, Jim [D-TN-5]  
 Rep. Correa, J. Luis [D-CA-46]  
 Rep. Crowley, Joseph [D-NY-14]  
 Rep. Cummings, Elijah E. [D-MD-7]  
 Rep. Davis, Danny K. [D-IL-7]  
 Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]  
 Rep. DeGette, Diana [D-CO-1]  
 Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-11]  
 Rep. Deutch, Theodore E. [D-FL-22]  
 Rep. Dingell, Debbie [D-MI-12]  
 Rep. Doyle, Michael F. [D-PA-14]  
 Rep. Ellison, Keith [D-MN-5]  
 Rep. Engel, Eliot L. [D-NY-16]  
 Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18]  
 Rep. Espaillat, Adriano [D-NY-13]  
 Rep. Evans, Dwight [D-PA-2]  
 Rep. Frankel, Lois [D-FL-21]  
 Rep. Fudge, Marcia L. [D-OH-11]  
 Rep. Gabbard, Tulsi [D-HI-2]  
 Rep. Gallego, Ruben [D-AZ-7]  
 Rep. Garamendi, John [D-CA-3]  
 Rep. Gomez, Jimmy [D-CA-34]  
 Rep. Gonzalez, Vicente [D-TX-15]  
 Rep. Green, Al [D-TX-9]  
 Rep. Green, Gene [D-TX-29]  
 Rep. Grijalva, Raul M. [D-AZ-3]  
 Rep. Gutierrez, Luis V. [D-IL-4]  
 Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20]  
 Rep. Higgins, Brian [D-NY-26]  
 Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]  
 Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]  
 Rep. Jayapal, Pramila [D-WA-7]  
 Rep. Jeffries, Hakeem S. [D-NY-8]  
 Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice [D-TX-30]  
 Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. [D-GA-4]  
 Rep. Kaptur, Marcy [D-OH-9]  
 Rep. Kelly, Robin L. [D-IL-2]  
 Rep. Khanna, Ro [D-CA-17]  
 Rep. Langevin, James R. [D-RI-2]  
 Rep. Lawrence, Brenda L. [D-MI-14]  
 Rep. Lawson, Al, Jr. [D-FL-5]  
 Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]  
 Rep. Lewis, John [D-GA-5]  
 Rep. Lieu, Ted [D-CA-33]  
 Rep. Loebbeck, David [D-IA-2]  
 Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]  
 Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]  
 Rep. Lowey, Nita M. [D-NY-17]  
 Rep. Maloney, Carolyn B. [D-NY-12]  
 Rep. Matsui, Doris O. [D-CA-6]  
 Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]  
 Rep. McNerney, Jerry [D-CA-9]  
 Rep. Meeks, Gregory W. [D-NY-5]  
 Rep. Meng, Grace [D-NY-6]  
 Rep. Moore, Gwen [D-WI-4]  
 Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-10]  
 Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-32]  
 Rep. Nolan, Richard M. [D-MN-8]  
 Rep. Norcross, Donald [D-NJ-1]  
 Rep. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]  
 Rep. Panetta, Jimmy [D-CA-20]  
 Rep. Payne, Donald M., Jr. [D-NJ-10]  
 Rep. Perlmutter, Ed [D-CO-7]  
 Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]  
 Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]  
 Rep. Polis, Jared [D-CO-2]  
 Rep. Price, David E. [D-NC-4]  
 Rep. Raskin, Jamie [D-MD-8]  
 Rep. Roybal-Allard, Lucille [D-CA-40]  
 Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]  
 Rep. Ryan, Tim [D-OH-13]  
 Rep. Sablan, Gregorio Kilili Camacho [D-MP-At Large]  
 Rep. Sanchez, Linda T. [D-CA-38]  
 Rep. Sarbanes, John P. [D-MD-3]  
 Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]  
 Rep. Schiff, Adam B. [D-CA-28]  
 Rep. Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" [D-VA-3]  
 Rep. Serrano, Jose E. [D-NY-15]  
 Rep. Sherman, Brad [D-CA-30]  
 Rep. Sires, Albio [D-NJ-8]  
 Rep. Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [D-NY-25]  
 Rep. Smith, Adam [D-WA-9]  
 Rep. Soto, Darren [D-FL-9]  
 Rep. Speier, Jackie [D-CA-14]  
 Rep. Swalwell, Eric [D-CA-15]  
 Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41]  
 Rep. Thompson, Bennie G. [D-MS-2]  
 Rep. Thompson, Mike [D-CA-5]  
 Rep. Titus, Dina [D-NV-1]  
 Rep. Tonko, Paul [D-NY-20]  
 Rep. Veasey, Marc A. [D-TX-33]  
 Rep. Vela, Filemon [D-TX-34]  
 Rep. Velazquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-7]  
 Rep. Visclosky, Peter J. [D-IN-1]  
 Rep. Waters, Maxine [D-CA-43]  
 Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [D-NJ-12]  
 Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]  
 Rep. Wilson, Frederica S. [D-FL-24]  
 Rep. Yarmuth, John A. [D-KY-3]

## NEW MEDICARE FOR ALL DISTRICTS!



**CA-25**  
Katie Hill



**CA-48**  
Harley Rouda



**CT-5**  
Jahana Hayes



**MI-9**  
Andy Levin



**NM-1**  
Debra Haaland



**PA-4**  
Madeleine Dean



**PA-5**  
Mary Gay Scanlon



**PA-7**  
Susan Wild



**PA-8**  
Matt Cartwright



**PA-18**  
Michael Doyle



**TX-16**  
Veronica Escobar